IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-2, 7-8 and 12 as follows:

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1. (Currently amended) A method of providing key management comprising:

providing a server;

providing a client configured to be coupled to said server;

providing a trusted third party configured to be coupled to said client;

generating a trigger message at said server;

generating a nonce at said server;

allowing said server to initiate a key management session with said client;

utilizing said nonce coupled with said trigger message.

2. (Currently amended) The method as described in claim 1 wherein said allowing said server to initiate said key management session with said client comprises:

~~generating a trigger message at said server;~~

~~generating a nonce at said server;~~

conveying said trigger message and said nonce to said client.

3. (Original) The method as described in claim 2 and further comprising:

receiving said trigger message and said nonce at said client;

generating a response message to said trigger message;

conveying said response message and a returned_nonce to said server.

4. (Original) The method as described in claim 3 and further comprising:

predetermining an out-of-bounds value for said nonce to prevent an attacker from simulating a client initiated key management session;

checking said nonce to determine whether the value of said nonce is said out-of-bounds value.

5. (Original) The method as described in claim 3 and further comprising:

confirming the value of said returned_nonce at said server; and

conveying a reply message from said client to said server.

6. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 and further comprising:

receiving from said client a response message and a false_nonce at said server;

determining that said false_nonce is false;

disregarding said client response message.

7. (Currently amended) A method of providing key management in a Kerberos based system, said method comprising:

providing a server;

providing a client configured to be coupled to said server;

providing a key distribution center configured to act as a trusted third party for said client and said server;

generating a nonce at said server;

conveying said trigger message and said nonce to said client;

initiating a key management session by said server with said client by utilizing said nonce coupled with said trigger message.

8. (Currently amended) The method as described in claim 7 and further comprising:

~~generating a trigger message at said server;~~

~~generating a nonce at said server;~~

conveying said trigger message and said nonce to said client.

9. (Original) The method as described in claim 8 and further comprising:

receiving said trigger message and said nonce at said client;

generating a response message to said trigger message;

conveying said response message and a returned_nonce to said server.

10. (Original) The method as described in claim 9 and further comprising:

confirming the value of said returned_nonce at said server; and then

continuing with said key management session.

11. (Original) The method as described in claim 7 and further comprising:

receiving at said server a response message and a false_nonce from said client;

determining that said false_nonce does not match said nonce;

determining that said server did not initiate said key management session.

12. (Currently amended) A method of initiating a key management session for a cable telephony adapter (CTA) ~~(CTA.~~ and a Signaling Controller in an IP Telephony network, the method comprising:

providing said Signaling Controller;

providing said CTA configured to be coupled to said Signaling Controller;

providing a key distribution center (KDC) ~~(KDC.~~;

generating a trigger message at said Signaling Controller;

generating a nonce at said Signaling Controller;

coupling said nonce with said trigger message;

transmitting said nonce coupled with said trigger message to said CTA;

generating a response message to said trigger message;

using the value of said nonce as the value of a returned_nonce;

coupling said response message with said returned_nonce;

transmitting said returned_nonce and said response message to said Signaling Controller;

comparing said returned_nonce to said nonce;

transmitting an AP reply in reply to said response message;

transmitting an SA recovered message to said Signalling Controller.

13. (Original) A method of conveying a key from a server to a client, comprising:

generating a wakeup message at said server;

generating a server_nonce at said server;

conveying said wakeup message and said nonce to said client;

generating an AP request message at said client;

conveying a client_nonce and said AP request message to said server;

confirming that said client_nonce conveyed with said AP request message matches said server_nonce generated at said server;

14. (Original) A method of confirming that a message received by a server from a client was triggered by the server:

receiving an AP request message from said client;

receiving a client_nonce from said client wherein said client_nonce is associated with said AP request;

determining whether said client_nonce matches a nonce conveyed from said server.

15. (Original) The method as described in claim 14 and further comprising:

determining that said client_nonce does not match said nonce conveyed from said server; and

disregarding said AP request.

16. (Original) The method as described in claim 15 and further comprising:

awaiting at said client for a reply from said server to said AP request;

aborting said AP request session after a predetermined time period if no reply is received from said server.

17. (Original) The method as described in claim 14 and further comprising:

determining that said client_nonce does match said nonce conveyed from said server; and

generating an AP reply at said server to said AP request.

18. (Original) A system for providing key management in a Kerberos based system, said system comprising:

a server;

a client configured to be coupled to said server;

a key distribution center configured to act as a trusted third party for said client and said server;

computer code coupled to said server operable to initiate a key management session by said server with said client.

19. (Original) The system as described in claim 18 wherein said computer code operable to initiate a key management session comprises computer code operable to generate a trigger message at said server; and further comprising:

computer code coupled to said server operable to generate a nonce at said server;

computer code coupled to said server operable to convey said trigger message and said nonce to said client.

20. (Original) The system as described in claim 19 and further comprising:

computer code coupled to said client operable to generate a response message to said trigger message;

computer code coupled to said client operable to convey said response message and a returned_nonce to said server.

21. (Original) The system as described in claim 20 and further comprising:

computer code coupled to said server operable to confirm the value of said returned_nonce at said server.